

PUBLIC

ART

AROUND

Chula Vista

As an artistic and cultural destination, Chula Vista is vibrant, diverse, and energetic. In an effort to build a creative and stimulating atmosphere, the Cultural Arts Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture have invited local, regional, and national artists to fashion works that beautify the city and inspire residents and visitors alike. The resulting collection of more than 80 public artworks includes collaborations with local schoolchildren, memorials to those who gave their lives in service to the community, and responses to the region's distinctive natural and cultural environment. Illustrated in this brochure are 24 exemplary works, which capture the spirit of Chula Vista. Come be inspired. Explore our city's remarkable cultural heritage.

For further information or to view the entire collection, please visit www.chulavistaca.gov

1 :: Steve Allen

Athletes of the Summer Games, 2001

Mural on canvas and acrylic paint • private collection



Located in Chula Vista's Olympic Training Center, this lively mural pays homage to the regional gold medalists of the summer Olympic Games of 2000. Capturing the range and diversity of athletes that make up the Olympics, from archery to gymnastics to track and field, this collage-like mural is a remarkable testament to and symbol of the city's active involvement in promoting and supporting our country's athletes as they train for future Olympic Games.

2 :: Dennis Alan Gjerston

Chromasol (Sunrise) & Chromasol (Sunset), 2006

Metal and polychrome sculpture • private collection

A local San Diegan, Gjerston created a pair of sculptures that make reference to the extraordinary beauty of Southern California's sunsets and sunrises. Acting as a metaphor for the sun, this expressionistic sculpture is a patchwork of vibrant colors. Reaching towards the sky, the translucent polychrome multi-colored globes of Chromasol captures the intensity and joy associated with the sun, and reinforces the central role the sun continues to play in the region.



CREATIVE · CULTURE

Be Inspired.

Come to
Chula Vista!

3 :: Mark Martensen Courage, Dedication and Honor, 2005

Bronze sculpture •
City of Chula Vista

Situated in front of Chula Vista's Fire Station No. 8, this figurative bronze sculpture is a memorial to the firefighters who gave their lives in the recovery efforts at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001.

A native of Chula Vista, Martensen's work is a somber portrayal of the courage and dedication of these remarkable heroes.



4 :: James McLaggen Mitchell Discrete Tension, 1988

Steel sculpture • private collection



This steel constructivist sculpture was one of the first public artworks to be installed in the city of Chula Vista. It marked the city's commitment to the arts through its continued efforts to

create an environment that both inspires and motivates the residents of Chula Vista. Although minimal in its construction, the black bisected circle of Discrete Tension is exemplary of the trends in abstract art of the mid-1980s.

5 :: Victor Ochoa, Sean Cornwall, and Neal Hill El Quinto Sol, 1995

Mural • City of Chula Vista

Located in the children's reading area of the South Chula Vista Public Library, this playful mural represents the bond of friendship. Designed as a jigsaw puzzle, the interlocking pieces are in the shape of children and represent the different ethnic groups and cultures that are part of the city's demography. Large in scale, the mural is a wonderful kaleidoscope of colors, and the dream-like patterns conjure images of hope and a prosperous future for the children of Chula Vista.



6 :: Julka Djuretic Father Serra, 2006

Bronze relief • private collection

This bronze relief is a portrait of Father Junipero Serra (1713-1784), the Franciscan monk who founded California's first mission in San Diego in 1769. Closely tied to the beginnings of San Diego County as an important agricultural society and subsequently as a trading center, Father Serra is a tribute to both the city's humble origins and its continual growth as an energetic,



promising urban hub. The realistic rendering of the priest depicts a man of notable stoicism and tenacity.

7 :: James T. Russell Hope Within, 2002

Stainless steel sculpture • private collection



Created by local artist James Russell, Hope Within is an extraordinary piece that epitomizes the enduring power of the human spirit. This polished stainless steel sculpture is abstract but conveys a very real and inspirational message of the hope that lies within every individual.

8 :: Miriam Newman Jugando, 1986

Bronze sculpture • private collection

The Spanish title of this piece translates as 'playing.' A fine example of craftsmanship, this sculpture offers a realistic representation of motherhood. Since both figures lack individual features, this bronze allows for a universal interpretation and emphasizes the importance of family, particularly the bond between mother and child.





9 :: Kenneth Capps Konoids, 1984

Metal sculpture • Unified Port of San Diego

Located next to the seafront in Harbor Side Park, these abstract shapes are arranged in a triangular pattern. The free-standing metal conical objects are constructed out of steel and painted in a matte finish. Based in Carlsbad, the artist's ingenuity and creativity is seen in the placement of industrial materials in a natural environment. The result is striking.

10 :: Bob Teague Lemon Capital of the World, 2003

Painted mural • private collection

Depicting the early days of farm life in Chula Vista, this painted mural pays homage to the city's founders and residents. Found in the heart of downtown, this mural depicts one of the city's many lemon groves from the first half of the twentieth century. Although lemon groves no longer exist in Chula Vista today, they continue to serve as a symbol of the prosperity and fruitfulness of the city.



11 :: Mario Torero Mirasol, 2000

Mixed media sculpture • private collection

This mixed media sculpture utilizes various materials such as metal, wood, and ceramic tiles. It is three-dimensional and consists of four painted panels. Based in San Diego and one of the founders of Chicano Park, Torero believes in the social and inspirational power art has in a community. His works are meant to motivate and inspire. This is seen in his heavy use of symbolism such as the basic elements of life (earth, wind, fire, and water) and the nopal plant. Mirasol, for example, was modeled after the nopal plant, which is indigenous to the area. The artist uses this symbol as a metaphor for the various cycles of life, in this case, birth.



12 :: Julka Djuretic Mother and Child, 2006

Bronze sculpture • private collection

This bronze sculpture depicts a mother holding up a pot filled with water, from which her child drinks. At the core of this touching piece is her expression of compassion, tenderness, and motherly love.



13 :: Doug Scott & Richard Sager Myths of Creation, 2000

Mixed media sculpture • private collection



Depicting Chinese, Mayan, and Native American myths of creation, these three large-scale pillars are a remarkable testament to the diversity that makes up the city's population. They represent a unified voice for tolerance and hope. These works are constructed of Stone

Mountain sculpture clay, high fiber glaze, concrete, and various other materials.

14 :: Jorge Blanco Pleasant Tree, 2006

Metal sculpture • Chula Vista Public Library Foundation collection

At the heart of this magical piece is the motto 'art shapes our daily lives.' Venezuelan artist Jorge Blanco is convinced that art which is vibrant and full of optimism can contribute to the cultural development of one's community. This abstract sculpture of an urban tree is located in front of the Civic Center branch of the Chula Vista Public Library (also pictured on the cover).



15 :: Roberto Salas Rice Elementary Mural (I and II), 2003

Mural • Chula Vista Elementary School District

This playful, energetic mural was inspired by and based on images drawn by children. Working around the elementary school's curriculum, the artist collaborated with the students to create this spectacular piece. By providing children an opportunity to reflect upon their city's history,



this wonderful collaboration reveals the diverse cultural spectrum that is Chula Vista.

**16 :: Raymond Deitchman
Seagulls in Flight,
circa 1978-1979**

Stainless steel sculpture • private collection

This sculpture portrays a fanciful formation of six abstract seagulls that are part of the region's coastline fauna. At the core of this piece is the importance of continued preservation efforts. These spectacular creatures are among the species that form the varied and sensitive eco-system of Chula Vista.



**17 :: Mario Torero
Spirit of the City,
circa 2007**

Mural • private collection

Painted in a graffiti-like style, this mural is located on the exterior wall of a garage complex. The urban setting is an ideal location for this piece. The artist worked closely with a group of students to develop the vision behind Spirit of the City, which seeks to capture the

essence of Chula Vista. These children represent the future and see the city where they live as both vibrant and energetic.



**18 :: Artists Unknown
The Gymnast, circa 2002**

Bronze sculpture maquette • private collection

This maquette of a gymnast is an extraordinary display of strength and agility. The figure demonstrates a movement known as the "Thomas Flare," after Kurt Thomas, a member of the 1976 US Olympic team. The original sculpture is located in Atlanta's World Congress Center in front of the Georgia Dome Football Stadium.



**19 :: Charles R. Faust
Tidelands, 1987**

Fresco with sand casting • City of Chula Vista
(continued on next panel)



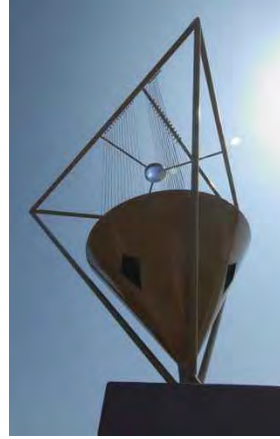
(*"Tidelands" continued*)

Situated on an exterior wall of the Chula Vista Nature Center, this fresco was created by local artist Charles Faust. Inspired by Chula Vista's regional history and the diverse wildlife of the region, this work depicts the wide array of fish and seabirds that are part of this unique environment. Tidelands is a celebration of nature and what it offers to residents of Chula Vista.

**20 :: Ross Barrable
To Remember Me, 2001**

Metal sculpture • Unified Port of San Diego

Located in Bayside Park near the dock master's office, this musical sculpture emits a melodic tune that is serene and peaceful. The artist believes that the harmonious sound of the harp, which constitutes the upper half of the sculpture, creates a contemplative place for rest and solace. This work was commissioned as a memorial to Ron McElliot.



**21 :: Louise McDowell
Tree of Life, 2006**

Metal sculpture • Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center

Inspired by the native animal and plant life of the South Bay area of Chula Vista, this stunning work was originally part of the Port of San Diego's Urban Trees I project. The powder-coated aluminum adds an element of whimsy and magic to the piece. It is a delightful, surreal-like work that consists of two-sided cut outs

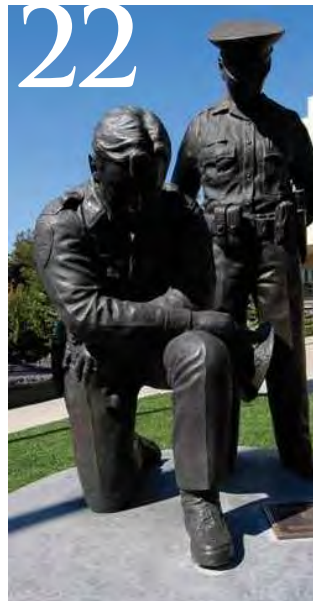
depicting images of animals that belong to the region's natural environment. Tree of Life is an outstanding portrayal of Mother Nature's harmony and beauty.



**22 :: Mark Martensen
When Heroes Fall. . .
We Remember, 2004**

Bronze sculpture • City of Chula Vista

Located in front of the city's police headquarters, When Heroes Fall. . . We Remember portrays two police officers paying respect to fellow officers who have fallen in the line of duty. The piece is a touching and heroic reminder of the courage and sacrifice these individuals make to protect and serve the community of Chula Vista and the San Diego County region.





23 :: Roy Shifrin
Winged Runner, 1996
 Bronze sculpture • private collection

This work is located in the Olympic Training Center. The runner has two mechanical wings that thrust him forth. An almost myth-like figure, the runner's face is covered. The artist describes this piece as a monument to everyone who has had a dream, even if that dream may appear impossible.



24 :: George Peters and Melanie Walker
Wind Oars, 2004
 Stainless steel sculpture with
 dialithic glass vanes •
 Unified Port of San Diego

In April 2004, this wind-activated artwork was dedicated as part of the Chula Vista Bayside Park. Inspired by the nearby marina and the Nature Center, the ten aluminum poles which are topped with a pair of oar-like vanes gives the illusion of a flock of birds flying above. This timeless project was a collaboration between the Unified Port of San Diego and the Cultural Arts Commission of Chula Vista.

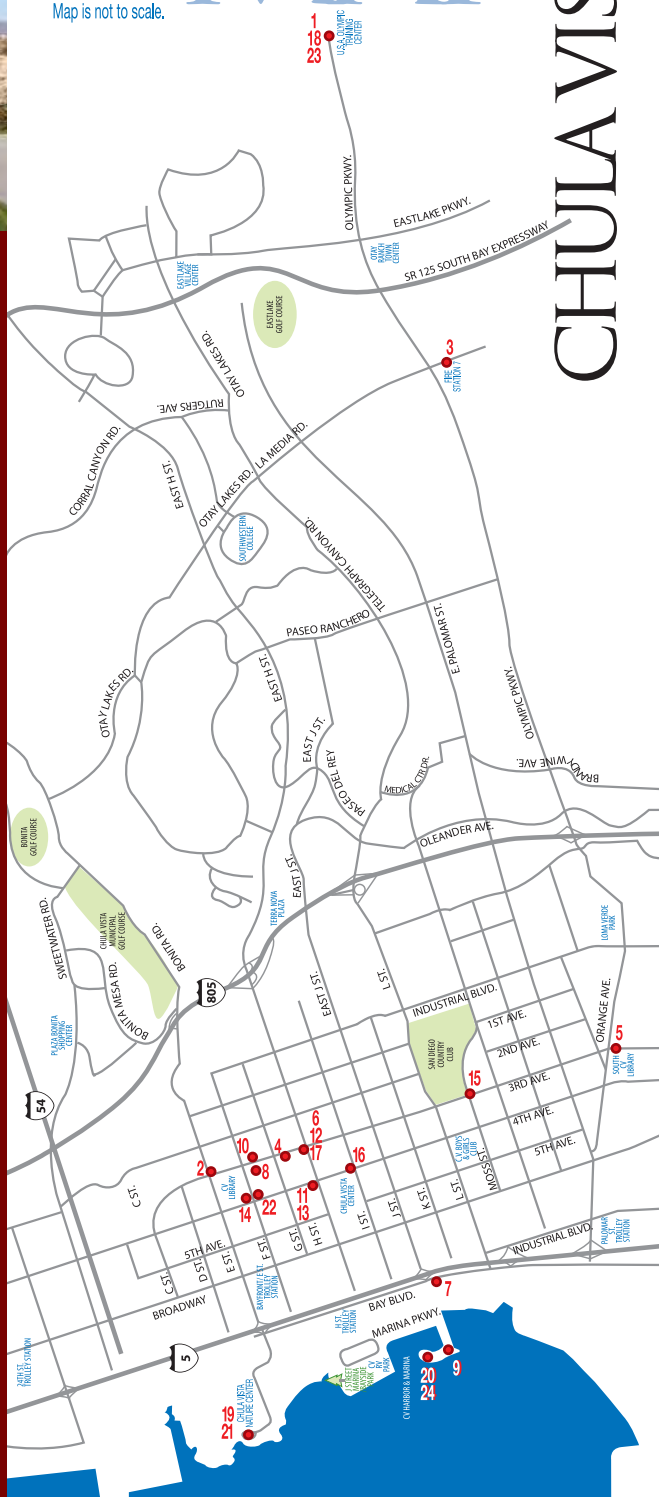
The Mission of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture is to preserve Chula Vista's multi-cultural heritage and promote a social and economic climate in which arts, culture and the creative process can flourish and enrich the quality of life for the whole community.

Text written by Vanessa M. Corbera. Ms. Corbera works in the curatorial department of the San Diego Museum of Art.



MAP

CHULA VISTA



MAP KEY:

● Indicates locations of public art in Chula Vista. Numbers coincide with the order in this brochure. Note: Some locations have multiple pieces (as indicated by more than one number).



CITY OF
CHULA VISTA



PUBLIC LIBRARY
CHULA VISTA

Supported in part by the Chula Vista Performing & Visual Arts Grants Task Force.